

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A device for colon-targeted oral delivery of glycyrrhizin comprising a shaped core containing an amount of glycyrrhizin, said shaped core being made of a suppository base comprising glyceride that melts or liquefies at the body temperature, and a coating film of ethylcellulose enclosing said shaped core and having a film thickness whereby when the device is transported through the digestive tract to the colon, the film enclosing the liquefied core ruptures selectively in the colon by the internal pressure generated by the peristalsis of the intestine.

11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein said amount of glycyrrhizin is in excess of the amount needed for compensating for the hydrolysis thereof by the intestinal flora.

12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein said coating film is formed by dipping the shaped core in a solution of ethylcellulose.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein said shaped core is dusted with a powder to prevent from sticking before dipping.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein said shaped core further contains an absorption promoter for glycyrrhizin.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the powder is talc.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein absorption promoter is an organic acid, a surfactant, a chelating agent, or a mixture thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the device contains 10 to 1,000 mg of glycyrrhizin.

18. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the device contains 100 to 800 mg of glycyrrhizin.

19. (Previously Presented) A device for colon-targeted oral delivery of glycyrrhizin comprising a shaped core containing an amount of glycyrrhizin, said shaped core being made of a glyceride suppository base that melts or liquefies at the body temperature, and a continuous coating film of ethylcellulose enclosing said shaped core and having a film thickness whereby when the device is transported through the digestive tract to the colon, the film enclosing the liquefied core ruptures selectively in the colon by the internal pressure generated by the peristalsis of the intestine.

20. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a colon-targeted oral delivery device of glycyrrhizin comprising:

(a) adding glycyrrhizin to a glyceride suppository base that melts or liquefies at the body temperature while the suppository base is in molten or liquefied state to obtain a suspension;

(b) casting the suspension in a mold;

(c) cooling the mold to obtain a shaped solidified core of the suspension;

(d) enclosing the resultant shaped core with a continuous coating film of ethylcellulose, the coating film having a film thickness whereby when the device is transported through the digestive tract to the colon, the film enclosing the liquefied core ruptures selectively in the colon by the internal pressure generated by the peristalsis of the intestine.

21. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 20, wherein the amount of glycyrrhizin in said suspension is in excess of the amount needed for compensating for the hydrolysis of glycyrrhizin by the intestinal flora.

22. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 20, wherein said coating film is formed by dipping the shaped core in a solution of ethylcellulose.

23. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 20, wherein said suspension further contains an absorption promoter for glycyrrhizin.

24. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 20 further comprising dusting the shaped core with powder before (d) to prevent sticking of the shaped core together.

25. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 24, wherein the powder is talc.

26. (Withdrawn) The colon-targeted oral delivery device prepared by the process of claim 20.

27. (New) A device for colon-targeted oral delivery of glycyrrhizin consisting of a shaped core containing an amount of glycyrrhizin, said shaped core being made of a suppository base comprising glyceride that melts or liquefies at the body temperature, and a coating film of ethylcellulose enclosing said shaped core and having a film thickness whereby when the device is transported through the digestive tract to the colon, the film enclosing the liquefied core ruptures selectively in the colon by the internal pressure generated by the peristalsis of the intestine.